

# Catholic Theatre Conference

## PRODUCTION CALENDAR

Vol. 8

December 1948

No. 3

### INTER-PROVINCIAL DRAMA FESTIVAL

The Cathespian Guild presented the First Inter-Provincial Drama Festival in Loyola College auditorium, Montreal, on November 13. The Guild, organized in 1939 with the aim of encouraging and developing a higher standard of dramatic work among English speaking Catholics, inaugurated the Catholic Drama Festival to provide an incentive to young players.

This Annual Festival has now become an institution after nine successful seasons. It has long been the dream of the Guild to spread the knowledge and love of Catholic theatre from coast to coast by sponsoring Dominion-wide Drama Festivals, and its members feel that by arranging this first Inter-Provincial Festival that another milestone has been passed on the way to the goal.

The C.Y.O. Drama Group of Ottawa, runner-up in the Ottawa City Drama Festival, presented BEGINNER'S LUCK, an original written, produced and directed by Margot Belier.

The Catholic Teachers' Theatre Guild of Montreal, winner of the Cathespian Trophy Catholic Drama Festival 1948, presented THE LITTLE STONE HOUSE by Geo. Calderon, directed by Rudolph W. Stoeckel.

Individual awards were given to Mr. Michael Collins of the Catholic Teachers' Theatre Guild and to Miss Eva Blumenchien of the Ottawa C.Y.O. Drama Group. These were in the form of gold Victory statuettes, C.Y.O. trophies.

The Adjudicator was Mr. Richard Barclay, late of London, England where he played Shakespearian roles with Donald Wolfit as well as a variety of parts in stock. He also appeared in television for the British Broadcasting Company and in about twenty British films. Mr. Barclay is a script writer for radio

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### CENTRAL REGION CHICAGO PLAY FESTIVAL

The fourth annual Play Festival for Catholic High Schools in Chicago and suburbs was held at Loyola Community Theatre and produced by Loyola Academy on November 26, 27 and 28.

The chairman of the Central Region is Sister M. Angelita, B.V.M. of Immaculate Conception Academy, Davenport. Honorary chairman for the Festival was Rev. Francis Flynn, S.J., Principal of Loyola Academy.

Arrangements were handled by the Festival Executive Committee comprised of Walter J. Kapica, S.J., Samuel F. Listermann, S.J., Walter Bamberger, Sister Mary Agnese, O.P. and Therese Marie Cuny.

Twenty-one one act plays were presented in the course of the three days with Mr. Albert McCleery as the Critic-Judge. Mr. McCleery is the Director of Fordham University Theatre. He served overseas where he organized the Biarritz American University and there with the aid of Guthrie McClintic, Marlene Dietrich, Alan Campbell and others presented a number of outstanding productions. Later he went to Hollywood where he wrote film-script for Fred MacMurray and others and radio script for Ethel Barrymore. He was assistant stage manager for the Katherine Cornell "Romeo and Juliet" and is co-author of several books on the subject of acting and producing.

The one-acts were presented in the morning and afternoons with Saturday evening devoted to a dance and Sunday

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## WEST-CENTRAL REGION

In anticipation of the West-Central meeting to be held in Kansas City in February, three Play Festivals have been held. One was held at St. Mary's Academy, Xavier, Kansas on November 20 in which five schools participated; one at the College of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, Texas, November 12, five schools participating; and the third at St. Teresa's College, Kansas City, Missouri, December 4, in which seven schools took part. Two other festivals are in progress, one in the Wichita, Kansas Diocese and one at St. Louis University.

Plays from these festivals will be presented for entertainment and educational values they present at the meeting, February 18 and 19, in Edison Hall, Kansas City, Missouri. Doctor Campton Bell of Denver University, Director of the School of the Theatre, will be critic judge.

The response, enthusiasm and fine work shown in these festivals is very gratifying and I am sure our directors, students and audiences have profited by them.

Other plans for speakers and demonstrations are materializing and we are working to make the West-Central Regional meeting an interesting, educational and profitable experience for all teachers, students and everyone interested in speech.

---Sister Mary Jovita, S.C.L.,  
Secretary-Kansas City Unit,  
West-Central Region.

## CENTRAL REGION MILWAUKEE PLAY FESTIVAL

The Milwaukee unit of the Central Region held their play festival over the Thanksgiving holidays. The critic-judge was Mr. Roland Mitchell, director of the University of Wisconsin Theatre.

Top honors went to Marquette High School Prep Players for their production of THE RISING OF THE MOON, directed by Mr. L. J. Schlenk. Geo. Halaska was judged the best male lead and Wm. Connell honorable mention for character portrayal. The

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## NEW APPOINTMENT

Rev. Anthony Juliano, chairman of the North-Pacific Region, has named Miss Louise Walsh as one of his Unit Chairmen. Miss Walsh is director at Marylhurst College, Oregon. As Vice-Chairman she will assist Father Juliano in promoting the Conference and encouraging new memberships in that area. Miss Walsh studied at Catholic University.

## SCRIPTS AVAILABLE

LUTE SONG - by Sidney Howard, three act play - mixed cast. Broadway production several seasons ago starred Mary Martin. The Story of the Lute was adapted for presentation at the Imperial Court of Peking in 1404 by Mao-Taou and has enjoyed a continuous stage life in China since the 14th century. This arrangement for presentation on the American stage was made by Will Irwin and Sidney Howard.

Mrs. Christopher Wyatt in her review of "Lute Song" in the March '46 Conference Production Calendar commented: "The 500 year most popular Chinese play has lost none of its appeal in the most beautiful settings ever designed by Robert Edmond Jones. Mary Martin plays and sings the heroine in a production that is really memorable".

Negotiations with Brandt & Brandt of New York City have made the play available to the Conference with a \$25.00 royalty. Application for permission to produce, however, must be made to Brandt & Brandt in care of Mr. William Koppelman. The address is 101 Park Avenue, N.Y. City.

Permission was granted to Father Schroeder to reproduce copies of the script. Individual copies may be purchased from Father at \$2.00. Write to him c/o Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa. Reading copies are available from the Service Bureau library.

CROWN COLONY - an English version of Fritz Hochwaelder's "Das Heilige Experiment" prepared by Richard Conlin, who was authorized to make the translation. All male cast - 18 plus extras - one setting for all five

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### SCRIPTS AVAILABLE

(Cont'd. from Page 2)

scenes. Time: 1767; Setting - the Jesuit College and Retreat House in Buenos Aires, in the Spanish Colony of Paraguay. Published by The University of Scranton Press, Scranton, Penna. Production rights must be obtained by writing to Director of Dramatics in care of the University. Royalty: \$25.00 per performance plus purchase of 15 copies of script at \$1.00 each.

THE WINSLOW BOY - a play in 2 acts by Terence Rattigan. 7 males and 4 females; one set. Compelling and seasoned with warm comedy this play won the Ellen Terry prize in London and was cited by the New York Drama Critics Circle as the best foreign play of the 1947 season. Mrs. Wyatt in her Production Calendar Review, Dec. '47, mentioned that "Terence Rattigan has achieved maturity in this interesting dramatization of a real episode important in emphasizing the individual's right against the state." Published by Dramatists Play Service.

### TO FILM "THE FIRST LEGION"

A special item to the New York Times dated Dec. 15 from Hollywood under the by-line of Thomas F. Brady tells of plans to film Emmet Lavery's play THE FIRST LEGION in France. It will be produced by Julien Duvivier who has concluded a deal with Mr. Lavery, Bert Lytell and Phil Green, who own the property. The latter were producers of the Broadway production in 1934-35 season. Mr. Lavery will write the screen adaptation.

### THANK-YOU

A word of appreciation to those who sent the Seasons Greetings to the Service Bureau. And to those who have been sending scripts to help enlarge the library.

### DUES

Just a reminder....\$10.00 per year for members; \$3.00 for subscriber.

### AMERICAN PREMIERE

Sister M. Leola, B.V.M., Clarke College, Dubuque has sent news of their premiere of THE CANTICLE OF THE NATIVITY written by Rene Richard Bechet. The translation was done by Sister M. Constantia, B.V.M., head of the French department, who spent last year studying at the Sorbonne, where she received permission to translate the play.

It has "simplicity, strength and the beauty of Claudel. The composer of the music accompanying it received the Prix de Rome".

The Clarke College production is under the direction of Miss Laura Wright of the drama faculty with Robert Emerick of Loras College drama department as technical consultant.

The production date is December 16 combined with the traditional Candlelighting ceremony. The drama and music departments have united their talents for the presentation. The script is composed of a prologue, five tableaux and an epilogue.

### CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY PRODUCTION

The adaptation of the Aristophanes script has been prepared by Walter Kerr from collated translations, cutting, extending and clarifying in the modern idiom. Direction, handled also by Mr. Kerr, established a broad slapstick humor and close association between actors and audience. Almost twenty-five centuries after Aristophanes saw fit to laugh at his own society by means of THE BIRDS, his satire is still apt and amusing.

The exceptionally large set consisted of levels camouflaged as mountains, which lent itself to fluidity of action. James Waring handled the setting and lighting; costumes were designed by Tom Bohen and an original music score was composed by Jos. Garvey.

### OVER-DUE SCRIPTS

Do your book shelves contain any over-due scripts from the Service Bureau? Someone may be waiting for them. We will appreciate their return as soon as it is convenient.

JESUIT INTER-COLLEGIATE  
DRAMATIC FESTIVAL

The Argus Eyes Dramatic Society of St. Peter's College, Jersey City played host to the Jesuit Colleges Drama Festival on November 24.

Conference members participating were St. Joseph College, Philadelphia; Fordham University and the host, St. Peter's College. Others were LeMoyne College, Syracuse and Canisius College, Buffalo.

Plays presented were: "A Game of Chess", "Mananas Banditos", "Lucifer at Large", "Thimble, Thimble" and "The Monkey's Paw".

The Critic-Judge was Miss Margaret Barker, actress and representative of ANTA. Highest rating was given to St. Joseph College production of "Mananas Banditos" directed by Mr. Charles Boylan. Fordham's presentation of "Lucifer at Large" directed by Mr. McCleery, was also rated highly.

Arrangements for the Festival were handled by Rev. H. Rogers, S.J., moderator for the Argus Eyes Dramatic Society and the Boot & Buskins of St. Peter's College.

JOTTINGS

---Miss Frey of College of St. Catherine, St. Paul, held a meeting in November for all college directors. Creative writing along play lines was adopted as the activity for the year. More details will be released at a later date.

---Mr. Rice, Conference Vice-President and co-chairman of the National Convention (Los Angeles-June 15 - 18) reported a meeting of Archdiocesan Council of Drama teachers in Los Angeles in early November to set up plans for a Play Clinic and Festival.

---Mr. John V. Hinkel, founder and organizer of Catholic Theatre Guild of St. Joseph Valley, Indiana and Director of Public Relations Dept. Notre Dame University has resigned to join a Public Relations Agency in Washington, D. C.

JOTTINGS

(cont'd. from column 1)

---Most Rev. Bernard J. Sheil, D.D. has announced that the Chicago CYO will operate its own Radio and Television Station starting in May. The call letters will be WJFL.

---Sister M. Leola, Clarke College, starts new radio program for children of Dubuque, patterned after the College adult program, "A Woman's World". Campus broadcasting will be done from a new studio with the most modern of broadcasting facilities under the call letters CLRK.

---The program for College of St. Teresa, Winona, Minn. production of "Martha" carried an interesting feature. It listed the forthcoming productions of neighboring Conference members...and carried a picture of the Conference patron, St. Genesius.

INTERESTING LETTER

A letter addressed to Father Schroeder written on the letter-head of Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse, (with sketches of each) reads as follows:

"May I congratulate you on the Catholic Conference Theatre Bulletin which I have received. It is, from start to finish, a wonderful job. Naturally, I was particularly impressed with the story about LIFE WITH MOTHER. It is beautifully done. But so is the entire Bulletin. My sincere congratulations."

Yours,  
Russel Crouse

NOTE:- See January issue for letter from Miss Dorothy Stickney, who plays "Mother". Space prohibits its reprint in this issue.

"MONSIEUR VINCENT" FILM

The filmed life-story of St. Vincent de Paul will have its American premiere in New York City on Dec. 21, at the Avenue Playhouse. Pierre Fresney stars in the title role.

NATIONAL CONVENTION LOS ANGELES JUNE 15, 16, 17 and 18

# CROSS COUNTRY CIRCUIT

Calif., Los Angeles - Immaculate Heart College - OF THEE I SING - Nov. 18, 19 and 20. LADY OF FATIMA opening Dec. 8.

Canada, Montreal - St. Genesius Players Guild - Dec. 14 - Variety show. Later in month - 4th annual production of Gheon's CHRISTMAS ON THE VILLAGE SQUARE.

Conn., W. Hartford - Mount St. Joseph, VENITE ADOREMUS.

Conn., W. Hartford - St. Joseph College, Qucene's Company presents PLAY FOR THE SEASON OF CHRIST'S NATIVITY, adapted for annual presentation from the Drama developed in connection with the Liturgical Service of the Medieval Monastery and Cathedral - Dec. 16 - text by Sister Maria Ancilla. Music by Rev. Thomas Dennehy and Rev. Harold Daly.

Florida, Miami - Gesu Guild in collaboration with Barry College Playhouse - SONG OF BERNADETTE with special musical background - Dec. 7 and 8.

Ill., Chicago - Immaculata High - choral speaking program - WGES - Dec. 1st.

Ill., East St. Louis - St. Teresa Academy A WOMAN WRAPPED IN SILENCE - speaking chorus, dancers and glee club.

Ill., River Forest - Trinity High School, senior play - STARDUST - Dec. 2 and 3.

Ind., So. Bend - St. Mary's College - Dec. 10 - A DIVINE CHILD IS BORN.

Iowa, Davenport - Immaculate Conception Academy - Dec. 5 and 6 - LADY OF FATIMA.

Iowa, Dubuque - Clarke College - American premiere of THE CANTICLE OF THE NATIVITY, Dec. 16. (see story page 3).

Mass., Boston - Boston College - THE TEMPEST - Dec. 11.

Mass., Boston Catholic Theatre - Nov. 9 and 10, THE HOUND OF HEAVEN. Nov. 22 and 23, THE RIVALS.

Mass., Cambridge - Matignon High School, THE JOURNEY OF THE THREE KINGS.

Mass., New Bedford Catholic Theatre - Jan. 23-27 - LADY OF FATIMA for benefit of Rose Hawthorne Lathrop Cancer Home in Fall River, Mass.

Mass., Weston - Regis College - THE LAST SHEPHERD, a dramatization of Joyce Kilmer's poem, THE FOURTH SHEPHERD by Sister M. Bonaventure, O.S.F.

Mich., Detroit Catholic Theatre - LADY OF FATIMA - four performances - Dec. 11 and 12 at Resurrection Parish.

Mich., Grand Rapids - St. Joseph Seminary, Dec. 17, 18 and 19 - THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE.

(cont'd. on next page)

Minn., Duluth - College of St. Scholastica Playmakers and College choir united in presenting A WOMAN WRAPPED IN SILENCE.

Minn., Mankato - Academy of Our Lady of Good Counsel - ONE WHO CALLED - presented for initiation of members into Sodality of Our Lady.

Minn., Mankato - Loyola High School, THE BIG HELP by Jean Kerr - Dec. 12.

Minn., Minneapolis - Academy of the Holy Angels - Dec. 5, Sierra's HOLY NIGHT; Dec. 12 - AT THE FEET OF THE MADONNA; Sophomore-Freshmen productions.

Minn., St. Joseph - Ardeleons of College of St. Benedict - PRIDE AND PREJUDICE - repeat performance in St. Cloud, Minn. for benefit of Foreign Student Relief.

Minn., St. Paul - Mount St. Mary - THE KING'S JONGLEUR - 1st week of Dec.

Neb., Omaha - College of St. Mary - LADY OF FATIMA - Dec. 12 and 13.

New Jersey, Fort Lee - Academy of Holy Angels - CATHOLIC YOUTH TALKS IT OVER, series of broadcasts dealing with the various phases of Catholic life each Sunday in Dec. - WAAT - 7:15-7:30 P.M.

New Jersey, Westwood - Pascack Theatre Guild - radio presentation - STORY OF THE SONG SILENT NIGHT.

New York, Brooklyn - Cathedral College - Father Ryan Players presented WITH HONOR an original by Rev. Eugene Molloy directed by Rev. John West...Nov. 18.

New York City - Fordham Univ. - Lunch hour matinee - THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH - two scenes from THE TIDINGS BROUGHT TO MARY - student director Richard Walsh. Also evening performances in Penthouse Theatre - RAMBLINGS OF '48 - musical staged by Albert McCleery with decor by Wm. Riva. 7 of songs published by BMI. Music by Marty Donovan; lyrics by Gerry Kenyon.

New York City - Carroll Club - Little Theatre presented Gheon's CHRISTMAS ON THE VILLAGE SQUARE, directed by Edgar L. Kloten, Dec. 21 and 22. Candlelight Carols by the Glee Club.

New York City - Regis High School - Dec. 10, 11 and 12 - HENRY IV - first part.

N.Y., Riverdale - College of Mount St. Vincent - new member reported production Oct. 22 of two original one acts by the senior play writing class - WITH FEET OF CLAY and EDMUND CAMPION, by Ann Donahue and Kathryn Shaker.

CROSS COUNTRY CIRCUIT  
(cont'd. from page 3)

N.Y., Tarrytown - Marymount College, stylized presentation of COMEDY OF ERRORS, Dec. 5 & 6, directed by Anthony Messuri.

Ohio, Cincinnati - Mother of Mercy High School - MARY, HIS MOTHER by junior drama students.

Ohio, St. Martin - School of Brown County Ursulines - THE DOOR and THE JOURNEY OF THE THREE KINGS, Dec. 19

Oregon, Marylhurst College - The ADVENT section of A WOMAN WRAPPED IN SILENCE in choral verse and tableaux; director - Louise Walsh.

Oregon, Portland - Central Catholic High School - Dec. 19 and 20 - CHRISTMAS ON THE VILLAGE SQUARE.

Oregon, Portland - Immaculata Academy, THE KING'S JONGLEUR and LADY OF THE MARKET PLACE.

Penna., Phila. - Philopatrian Theatre Guild - CHRISTMAS ON THE MARKET PLACE - Dec. 2, 3 and 4.

Penna., Scranton - University of Scranton - CROWN COLONY.

Wash., D. C. - Catholic University, Aristophanes THE BIRDS, Dec. 3 - 18, directed by Walter Kerr.

Wisc., Green Bay - Central Catholic High School - LADY OF FATIMA opening Dec. 8 for a series of performances. Directed by Rev. Guy E. Guyon.

INTER-PROVINCIAL FESTIVAL  
(cont'd. from page one)

and stage and has two full length plays to his credit. Since his arrival in Canada he has been actively engaged in radio work in Montreal, has appeared in the Canadian film made in St. Hyacinthe and played leading roles for the Stage Society in Ottawa.

Miss Margaret Tansey of Cathespian Guild reported that Mr. Barclay proved a most interesting and capable Adjudicator and is a Catholic - interested in clean and worthwhile drama.

C.B.A. MEETING

The Middle Atlantic meeting of Catholic Broadcasters Association was held Nov. 20 at Ursuline Academy in Wilmington, Del. Dr. A. M. Wasilifsky of St. Joseph's College, Emmitsburg, Md. is chairman of this region.

CHICAGO PLAY FESTIVAL  
(cont'd. from page 1)

evening to a banquet and the presentation of awards in the form of scholarships, gold, silver and bronze keys.

A display of pictorial records of past productions was on view in the Green Room.

Plays presented were: Minor Miracle, Six who Pass While the Lentils Boil, The Golden Stair, The Woman in the Freight Car, cuttings from Ladies in Retirement, Join Owners in Spain, The Falcon, Gray Bread, The Game of Chess, The Accusing Hand, Overtones, Rope, scene from Romeo and Juliet, All Night Service, Action, Message from Khufu, I Shall Be Waiting, Will O' the Wisp and scene from Hamlet.

MILWAUKEE PLAY FESTIVAL  
(cont'd. from page 2)

honors for outstanding actress went to Pat Fabry of Holy Angels Academy; honorable mention to Mary Ann Katzor of St. Mary's for best character portrayal.

The Sunday morning session closed the two day meeting in which a total of eight plays was presented. Most Rev. Roman R. Atkielski celebrated Holy Mass on Sunday which was followed by a Communion Breakfast at which Bishop Atkielski made the presentation of awards.

DAYTON BLACKFRIARS

The November issue of this group's FRIARCRACKER was a special one in honor of the tenth anniversary. The detailed issue gave an interesting account of the founding, history, productions and social events of the past ten years.

MERCY COLLEGE -- DETROIT

Sister M. Marguerite, R.S.M. has written an original ballet chorale interpretation of THE JUGGLER OF NOTRE DAME using players, singers, dancers and glee club. Mr. McCleery made the trip to Detroit to serve as critic-judge and was high in his praise of the directorial imagination displayed. Sister Marguerite has promised the Service Bureau a copy of the script as soon as she can ready one.

